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## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT May Meeting of Executive Committee  
of Berlin SED

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The Executive Committee of the Berlin SED had its regular monthly meeting at party headquarters, Behrenstrasse, 19 May. Of the 72 members of the Executive Committee, 42 failed to attend.
2. Karl Litke, Chairman of SED Landesvorstand for Greater Berlin, reported the formation of a Partei-Aktiv in Berlin and expressed the opinion many members of it will attempt to shirk their responsibility. Their names are all entered in a card catalogue and records will be kept of their response to Partei-Aktiv demands. Any members who are found remiss will be called to judgment. The Central Secretariat of the SED has examined the question and ordained that no remissness will be tolerated, not even from members who have important government positions, presidents, etc.
3. Litke explained that it was necessary for the SED to champion the colors black-red-gold to prevent western politicians from claiming credit for their restoration. He prophesied much opposition on the part of SED members to this step by the party.

4. Litke continued: "We don't know when the western powers will leave Berlin. We don't wish to raise any false hopes as to the date of their departure. What will happen then? The Social Democrats are worried about this. The SPD is discussing the possibility of having to suspend its activities in the Russian sector and eventually in all of Berlin. We must establish the best relations possible with the Social Democrat workers, especially since many are opposed to Zietenstrasse policies."

Josef Orlopp, President of the Central Administration for International and Foreign Trade, rose to criticize the party for sending unqualified speakers to the factories. "The workers are very sensitive. If the speaker smells of perfume, that's enough to cause his failure." Orlopp also denied that party members with high government positions are disloyal to the party. "I have 180 SED members in my department, part of whom you are welcome to use. Some of them work until nine or eleven o'clock every night. Some are often away on business trips. Others have simply lost touch with these problems. Naturally there are a few shirkers who say 'I've got all I want'. I have six young SED men whom I expect to go far

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in the party. They have been to an SED school and learned a lot of theory, but everyday procedures are completely different. The older comrades must take them in charge and gradually teach them how to cope with practical issues."

6. Heinz Hoffmann explained why the Partei-Aktiv was founded. "We have lost too many comrades to administrative jobs. Of these 3,000 we have picked out 300 who are really capable of any sort of party work. The Central Secretariat has promised to force these 300 to work for us. But the boroughs don't even tell us where they need speakers. The borough chairmen don't even know what meetings are being held in their boroughs. That even happens in the Russian sector. If the boroughs inform us, we can supply most of their meetings with good speakers."
7. Comrade Voss, Chairman of Wedding, urged that the party give financial support to the leaders of the party factory cells, possibly using DWK funds for this purpose.
8. Comrade Kiefer attacked party chieftains for getting out of touch with the people. He exhibited a Volksbegehren poster with a long text in small print, put out by the party in Berlin and read by no one.
9. The chairman for Oberschöneweide complained that Sobottka (head of the fuel section of Deutsche Wirtschaftskommission (DWK) has lived in his district three years and attended only one SED meeting. Litke answered that the SPD has no presidents but that its speakers, although practically unknown, have great success among the workers.
10. The chairman of Mitte urged serious consideration of why mass feeling against the SED is so high. "An SED speaker may get lots of applause until the people find out he is SED; then it's all over. Our papers aren't read; everyone reads the Telegraf and Tagesspiegel. Why? If we put up clippings from our papers in a factory, they are torn down in five minutes. There must be something that repulses the workers. In one factory we have 35 SED members and none of them will open his mouth. I have to make the speeches. One of them is an assistant foreman who hopes to become foreman but he won't open his mouth either. They'll talk in neighborhood meetings but not in the factory."
11. The Volksbegehren was the next discussion topic. The chairmen of Friedrichshain, Pankow, and Treptow reported that they expected 100% results by 30 May. No other chairmen were so optimistic. Those from the western sectors even expressed doubt that all SED members would sign up. Litke proposed "spontaneous" marches from the western sectors to registration booths in the Russian sector. Bachmann, Zehlendorf, reported he had established booths in Klein-Machnow and Teltow just across the border from Zehlendorf.
12. Fritz Reuter complained that in movie-houses in the western sectors SED members are being intimidated by organized bands of rowdies. He recommended that the SED send groups of stalwart members to these movie theaters. These SED members should not allow themselves to be frightened; if anti-SED propaganda is shown, they should make appropriate remarks; if rowdies attempt to molest them, they should teach them a lesson.

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